

## ACCESSING YOUR STATE GOVERNMENT

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*Distributed by State Senator Connie Lawson*

**WHERE DOES  
THE  
LOTTERY  
MONEY  
GO ?**



# LARGEST SHARE OF GAMBLING PROFITS GOES TO CUT "LICENSE PLATE TAX"

"Where does the lottery money go?" is among the questions I am asked most often.

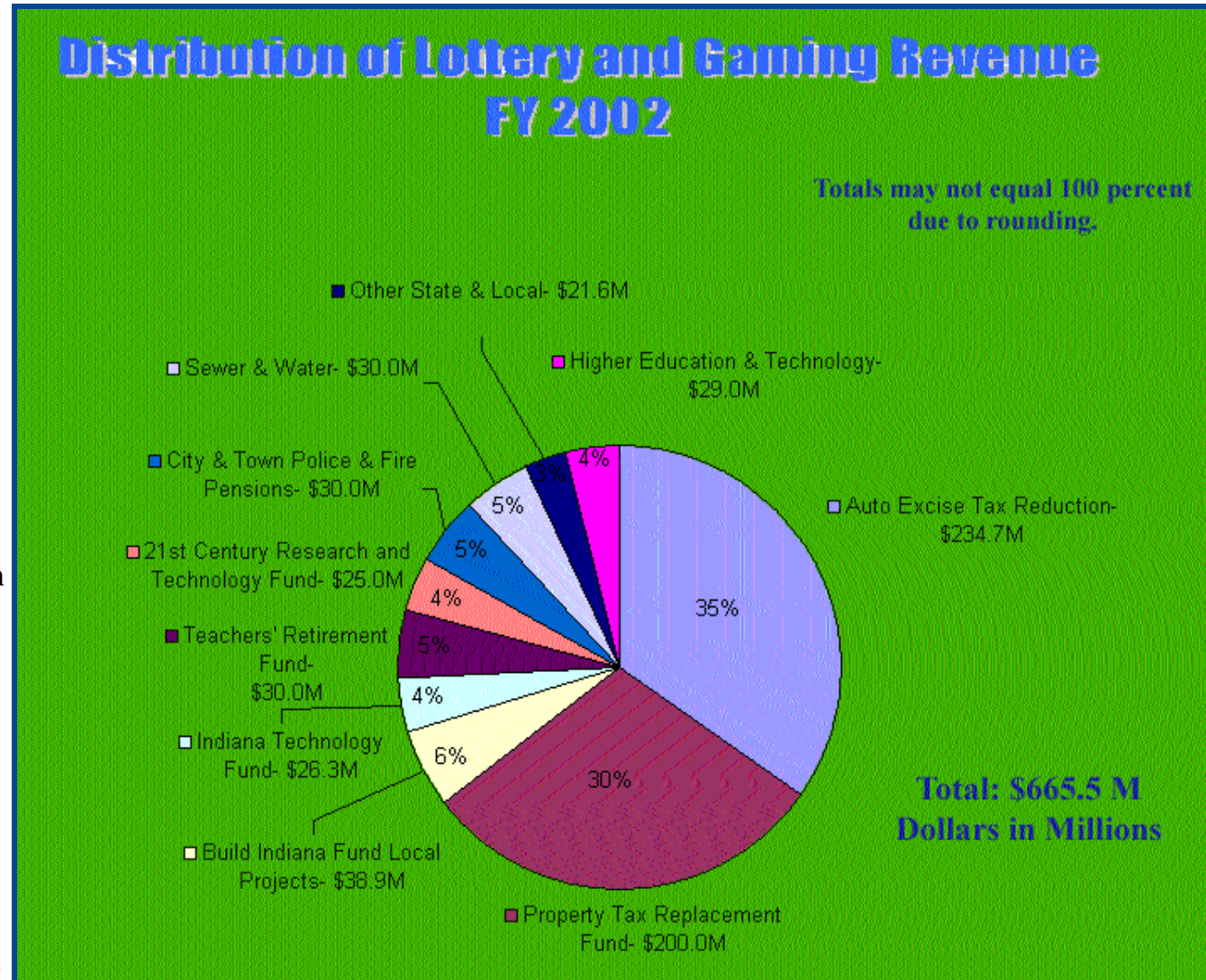
The state's share of profits from the Hoosier Lottery is combined with profits from river boat casinos, bingo and pari-mutuel horse racing into a single account within the Build Indiana Fund known as the "Lottery and Gaming Surplus Account."

The specifics for distributing the funds in the account are included in each two-year state budget.

For the budget year which began July 1, expenditures from the state's share of profits from the Hoosier Lottery, riverboat casinos and other forms of legalized gambling are expected to total \$665.5 million.

The largest share of the profits, \$235 million, will go to cut the "license plate tax," the excise tax Indiana motorists pay annually when renewing their vehicle license plates. If you own a car or truck, your license plate tax is reduced by up to 50 percent yearly, using gambling profits to replace the "lost" revenue to schools and local governments.

The second-largest recipients of gambling profits will be Indiana home



owners. This year, \$200 million is dedicated to the Property Tax Replacement Fund to bridge a revenue shortfall brought on by the slow economy.

However, this is nothing more than an accounting maneuver, offering no more property tax relief than would have been provided from the state general fund.

As the pie chart shows, some gambling profits are used to reduce pension obligations to teachers, local police officers and firefighters.

Funds also are set aside for computer enhancements in local schools and public libraries (the Indiana Technology Fund) and to support the development of hi-tech research (21st Century Research & Technology Fund).

Six percent of the profits goes for local projects ranging from fire and rescue equipment to street, sidewalk and park improvements.

Since its inception in 1990, the Build Indiana Fund has provided funding for local projects. All 92 Indiana counties

have received a portion of the funds.

If not for the Build Indiana Fund, many needed local projects either would not get done or property taxes would have been raised to finance them.